

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action of March 22, 2005. The due date for response extends to July 22, 2005. A one month extension is hereby requested.

The specification was amended as requested.

Figure 4C-2 was amended to corrected the formality noted by the Examiner. Specifically, the drawing was adjusted to be identical to the as-filed drawing 4C-2, which obviates that noted error in number placement. A replacement drawing is submitted with this response.

Claims 1-7, 11-18, 22 and 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Pat. No. 6,656,024 (Boyd et al.). The Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to better define the invention, in this elected group of claims.

Independent claim 1 now recites that at least one fluid output control path is defined through the platen support cover at a wall location defined between the first level and the second level. Independent claim 13 already defines that "...at least one fluid output control path defined through the platen support cover..." Boyd et al. does not define fluid output control paths "through" the platen support. Boyd et al. defines notches 129 "on" the surface or gaps 128 "between" each of the curved members 118. It is submitted that Boyd et al. fails to teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Accordingly, the Examiner is kindly requested to withdraw the Section 102(e) rejection.

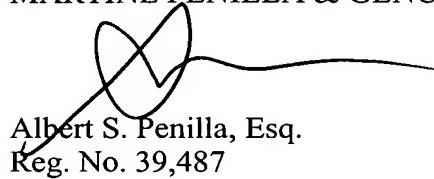
If the claims were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, then the Applicant notes that the Boyd et al. reference is omitted as prior art against this case under the provisions under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), as the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, subject to an obligation of assignment to Lam Research Corporation.

A terminal disclaimer over U.S. Pat. No. 6,656,024 is submitted with this response to overcome the nonstatutory double patenting rejection.

Having addressed each of the outstanding issues, the Examiner is kindly requested to pass this case to allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6903. If any other fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No LAM2P434). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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